

RESTON TIMES  
17 September 1986

# CIA's FBIS and fence head here

## December transfer eyed

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The CIA's Foreign Broadcast Information Service, in a controversial move, will relocate to an office complex near Reston's planned Town Center, according to informed government sources.

Sources told The Times this week the broadcast service plans to shift operations to the future Reston Corporate Center on Sunset Hills Road, apparently because of overcrowding at its present headquarters in the Ames Bldg., in Rosslyn.

The RCC is just south of the 85-acre Town Center site.

Rumors of a CIA move to Reston began earlier this year, but this was the first confirmation that FBIS would be an occupant of the Reston office complex.

FBIS translates news from foreign radio and television broadcasts for CIA analysts and members of the federal government involved in foreign affairs.

Maryland-based Mulligan-Griffin & Associates Inc., developers of the office complex, has refused to discuss details of the plans, saying only that the first two buildings—already complete—total 250,000 square feet of space.

The CIA will neither confirm nor deny the relocation. It also has refused to discuss plans to expand a federal microwave communications tower two miles from the office complex on Fox Mill Road.

Some sources said the relocation could take place as early as December, although it could not be determined how many workers will be employed at the complex.

Concerns over the planned relocation, and a request to erect a security fence, sparked protests from community leaders at a meeting with federal government representatives last week.

Community leaders claim the security fence is not in keeping with the flavor of Reston's planned neighborhood.

Residents also found themselves hard pressed to understand why the super-secret agency has proposed moving into a complex that will be part of a major area attraction.

"I think the CIA has come to the wrong location, because (the office complex is) located near the core of the Town Center," Joseph Stowers, co-chairman of Reston's planning and zoning committee, told members of the Reston Community Association Monday.

Centreville Supervisor Martha V. Pennino said she suggested at last week's meeting the nearby U.S. Geological Survey site as an alternative location for the communications tower. She said that federal representatives have agreed to consider it.

A retired CIA employee, in a 1980 book on the intelligence service, said FBIS (pronounced "fibus") "translates into English and summarizes on a daily basis everything of significance that has appeared on radio and TV and in major press outlets of nations throughout the world."

FBIS also keeps track of radio broadcasts from Soviet bloc countries to their neighbors in support of local communist parties and front groups, according to Cord Meyer, the book's author.

Meyer says that FBIS works jointly with the British Broadcasting Corporation to gather information, then trades with the BBC on a daily basis.